

# Have Some Fun with Nurses Week

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Nurses Week is May 6-12 every year in the U.S. Other countries celebrate during this same time frame, and International Nurses Day is May 12.

Take this time to honor your staff, your co-workers, and all of the nurses who have cared for you over the years. It doesn't have to be all serious business. Take the time to *have some fun* while you celebrate and honor nurses.

You can of course, keep things dignified, but that doesn't mean you can't have some fun and maybe even get to know your colleagues a little better at the same time.

## Here are a few suggestions for honoring your nurses:

Set up a drop box in a convenient location. Have each of your nurses write a short note on a 3X5 card using one of the following prompts and drop it in the box.

### Prompts:

- Why I became a nurse...
- Who was my favorite patient and why?
- Most memorable moment in nursing...
- Best part about being a nurse...
- Most scary moment in nursing school...
- Favorite nursing instructor (and why)...
- Will you still be a nurse in five years?
- If you had the power to do so ...how would you solve the nursing shortage?
- What is the best part about being a nurse....beyond just "helping people"...

Be sure to leave out any information which identifies patients or violates any confidentiality (HIPAA regs).

Have the nurses deposit the cards in the box. Collect them and make a huge poster to hang in your lobby, cafeteria or other prominent spot for other nurses and the public to see and read. Add photos of the nurses and a big headline about honoring your nurses.

If you have a breakfast, luncheon or ceremony of some sort, read some of the best answers, or ask some of the nurses to read their own and perhaps

elaborate.

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### **Other Suggestions...**

- Have the nurses bring in baby photos, childhood photos or photos of their graduation from nursing school and have the staff guess who they are.

Ask some of your vendors or local merchants to get involved and possibly give out some prizes to those who have the most right answers.

- Ask the nurses to bring in their nursing school caps or uniforms if they have them, or a photo of them and make a display in a prominent area.

You could even vote on the ugliest, silliest, most impractical etc. and again have prizes for the poor souls who had to wear them!!

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Go beyond a "Nurse of the Year" award....

Have a Nursing Awards ceremony for many categories such as:

- Best at documenting
- Best knack for starting an IV
- Best sense of humor
- Most caring
- Best at breaking the tension
- Most innovative
- Best attendance
- Always willing to trade or cover a shift

Think about those who go the extra mile in some way and should be honored for it and *make up your own categories*.

Each unit or department should submit their list and build a "Thank You" bulletin board in a prominent space. Honor the "winners" at your celebration.

Again, see if you can solicit some prizes from merchants or vendors. Be sure to make up certificates for all.

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**Publicity is a MUST**

Whatever you do for your staff, take the opportunity to invite your local media to participate and to include it in their broadcasts and publications.

Nurses Week is about celebrating the nursing profession, patting ourselves on the back for a job well done, and for encouraging others to follow in our footsteps and become nurses too. Spread the word about how you celebrate your nurses!

Share your ideas on [The Nursing Site Forum](#)

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